

NATIONAL HONEY REPORT



**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

**Agricultural Marketing Service
Fruit and Vegetable Programs
Market News Branch**

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HONEY MARKET FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER, 2003
IN VOLUMES OF 10,000 POUNDS OR GREATER UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED
 - REPORT INCLUDES BOTH NEW AND OLD CROP HONEY -

Prices paid to beekeepers for extracted, unprocessed honey in major producing states by packers, handlers & other large users, cents per pound, f.o.b. or delivered nearby, containers exchanged or returned, prompt delivery & payment unless otherwise stated.

ARKANSAS	- Soybean, light amber, \$1.15 - 1.25
CALIFORNIA	- Alfalfa, extra light amber, \$1.35 - 1.40 (delay payment) - Cotton/Alfalfa, extra light & light amber, \$1.20 - Mixed Flowers, extra light & light amber, \$1.15 (30 day payment) - Orange, white, \$1.50 - Sage, white, \$1.50
FLORIDA	- Brazilian Pepper, extra light amber, \$1.10 - Floral Source Not Reported, white, \$1.50 - Floral Source Not Reported, light amber, \$1.32 - Gallberry, Extra light amber, \$1.35 - 1.40 - Gallberry, light amber, \$1.20 - Gallberry, cut comb, \$1.50 - Orange, extra light amber, \$1.50 - Saw Palmetto, extra light & light amber, \$1.40 - Wildflowers, light amber, \$1.40
IOWA	- Floral Source Not Reported, extra light amber, \$1.45 - Mint, light amber, \$1.18 (small lots)
IDAHO	- Clover/Alfalfa, white, \$1.50
MICHIGAN	- Floral Source Not Reported, white, \$1.50 - Floral Source Not Reported, extra light amber, \$1.35 - Floral Source Not Reported, light amber, \$1.25
MONTANA	- Alfalfa, extra light amber, \$1.40 - 1.45 (higher price - small lots) - Blue Curl, white, \$1.50 - Clover, white, \$1.54

NORTH DAKOTA	- Clover, white, \$1.45 - 1.50 - Clover, extra light amber, \$1.35 - 1.40 - Clover, light amber, \$1.25
OREGON	- Floral Source Not Reported, white, \$1.50 - Floral Source Not Reported, extra light amber, \$1.45 - Floral Source Not Reported, light amber, \$1.35
SOUTH DAKOTA	- Alfalfa, white, \$1.49 - 1.50 - Alfalfa, extra light amber, \$1.35
TEXAS	- Chinese Tallow, light amber, \$1.24 - Chinese Tallow, amber, 1.20
UTAH	- Floral Source Not Reported, light amber, \$1.23
WASHINGTON	- Alfalfa, white, \$1.45 - Alfalfa, extra light amber, \$1.38 - 1.40 - Alfalfa, light amber, \$1.18 - Alfalfa, dark amber, \$.83 - 1.00 - Buckwheat, dark amber, \$1.00 - Mint, light amber, \$1.35 - Mint, dark amber, \$.83 - 1.00 - Mixed Flowers, light amber, \$1.20 - Floral Source Not reported, white, \$1.50 - Peppermint, dark amber, \$.83
WISCONSIN	- Clover, white, \$1.45 - 1.50

Prices paid to Canadian beekeepers for unprocessed bulk honey by packers & importers in U.S. currency, f.o.b. shipping point, containers included unless otherwise stated. Duty & crossing charges extra. Cents per pound.

MANITOBA	- Floral Source not Reported, white, \$1.50
ONTARIO	- light amber, \$1.49
PROVINCE NOT REPORTED	- Clover, white, \$1.57 - 1.61

Prices paid to importers for bulk honey, duty paid, containers included, cents per pound ex-dock or point of entry unless otherwise stated.

EAST COAST..... BRAZIL	- Mixed Flowers, light amber, \$1.17
INDIA	- Mixed Flowers, light amber, \$1.20
WEST COAST..... UKRAINE	- Mixed flowers, extra light amber, \$1.15-1.20

COLONY, HONEY PLANT & MARKET CONDITIONS DURING OCTOBER, 2003

APPALACHIAN DISTRICT – (MD, PA, VA, WV) ζζζ

Beekeepers have prepared colonies for the winter and final inspections found lighter than desired honey stores. The fall nectar flow was disappointing due to rainy, wet weather and Hurricane Isabel's damage to many nectar sources. Supplemental feeding was necessary. A light frost hit the area mid-month and a short warming trend was experienced near the end of the month; however, bee activity is now at a minimum. A few beekeepers are preparing bees for shipment to warmer climates for the winter. There are no new insect and disease problems to report. Local associations are preparing for their fall and winter annual meetings.

CALIFORNIA ζζζ

The month began with more record-setting high temperatures of over 100 degrees, especially in Southern California. On the 9th and 10th, a storm dropped down from Oregon, bringing light rain, gusty winds and cooler temperature along the northern border of California. Temperatures continued to side and by the end of the month, many areas recorded high temperatures in the 90's and low 100's, occasionally setting records. On the 26th, more than a dozen large wildfires were burning in Southern California. Triple-digit temperatures and Santa Ana winds of 25 – 70 mph made containment very difficult. By the 30th, over a million acres and thousands of homes were destroyed.

The hot and dry conditions dried up all floral sources during the month so hives were brought closer to home and placed in winter holding yards. There are also reports of hives being in the area where brush fires were burning and had to be moved quickly. Apistan strips were put in to control mites and feed was added. Because of the favorable prices being paid for honey, some producers extracted more honey than usual instead of leaving it in the hives for feed this winter. The remainder of the time was spent doing winter repairs and rendering wax.

Packers report they are currently being offered enough honey to cover their holiday orders. The market is somewhat unsettled this year as prices for white honey are holding steady because of available supplies and good demand. There is more than enough darker honey, partly because of imports, but demand from commercial users never recovered from the high prices this summer so packers aren't buying as much.

Beekeeping supply companies report an increase in sales this year as producers have more money to spend because of higher honey prices. Best selling items during October were boxes, mite treatments and supplemental feed.

GEORGIA ζζζ

Colonies around the state were in generally good condition with most beekeepers around the state having fed sugar and/or corn syrup to their colonies to a greater extent than normal due to the poorer than normal honey flow this year. While no significant problems with disease were reported during the month, beekeepers were treating colonies to prevent possible infections of American or European Foul Brood and tracheal mites. Hives are continuing to reduce populations. There were no significant sources of pollen or nectar available late in October as the very limited amount of goldenrod and aster that had been sources had just about finished blooming by the end of the month. Weather during October featured warm days with cool nights. Moisture levels around the state were adequate.

IDAHO ζζζ

Not much activity this month as most beekeepers checking and feeding their hives. Bees appear to be in good condition. Some hives were transported to California during the month with more to follow in November. There was no pollen or nectar gathered this month.

INDIANA ζζζ

Extraction activities were finishing up ahead of normal and most beekeepers finished fall mite treatment programs as well. Most beekeepers had treated their hives and supplemental feeding has begun. Most honeybees were moved into winter holding yards. Fall weather conditions were excellent for yard work. The fall honey crop was disappointing as the crop was small and the quality was poor. Frequent rainfall over the southern section was good for fall floral sources.

Demand for honey was very good as many farmers markets and fall festivals throughout the state featured locally collected honey. Bulk honey sales were good for limited, available supplies.

ILLINOIS ζζζ

The fall honey flow for overwintering of colonies was very light. Most beekeepers started supplemental feeding activities due to the poor honey crop.

Comparison temperatures for the month were warmer than normal and the northern section had been dryer than normal.

Frequent rainfall continued in southern sections which kept the mums, lilac, lilies, marigolds and lavender in bloom. Goldenrod and white clover had been worked; however, the honey crop was very limited.

Honey movement was reported good at farmers markets and many local fall festivals. The quality of the honey offered was not as good as the quality in past years; however, demand was reported good. Honey prices continued to be stable on the retail side. Very little bulk honey was available for sale.

MISSOURI & IOWA, INCLUDING E. KANSAS & NEBRASKA ζζζ

Temperatures averaged near normal. Some drought relief occurred during October as some weather fronts brought rain. Missouri top soil moisture conditions improved the week ending October 28 from the week ending September 30th. Subsoil moisture was not reported for Missouri and the worst counties for dry soil were continued in the northwestern counties. IA, KS & NE all reported an improvement in subsoil moisture. Except for the period of the main rainfall harvesting conditions of honey still in field locations was good. Harvest of grain crops progressed very well during October over the region. Bee populations were still fairly high and conditions of hives were generally good. Feeding was required in some locations. Nectar flow was over except for spot locations in Southern Missouri. Honey storage ranged from light to good with the best volume generally in Eastern Missouri.

Beekeepers were busy extracting honey and getting hives ready for winter. Honey yields look like average to above average in Central and Southern Missouri along the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers; yields in northwest Missouri, Eastern Kansas and Eastern Nebraska look like mostly below average except hives with access to irrigated soybeans. Areas with well below average soybean yields will also have below average honey yields. Most beekeepers in the region do not plan to extract the fall flow as they treated beehives for mites and many will have to feed the hives for them to make it through the winter.

MONTANA ζζζ

Extremely dry conditions persisted throughout most of October, occasionally accompanied by high winds. Billings completed it's driest water year (October 1st through September 30th) on record when they received only 8.71" or 59% of normal. This occurred even though they received a daily-record total of .71" on the 10th, which exceeded the cities rainfall during the preceding 111 days. By the end of the month, topsoil moisture remained at 62% compared to last years 23% and subsoil was rated at 67% very short compared to 39% last year.

Migratory beekeepers were busy moving their hives to winter holding yards in North and Central California. Seasonal beekeepers were waiting for their last loads of bees to be picked up by the buyer. Most producers report their honey crop was slightly below their previous averages. Everyone is now keeping busy doing winter clean-up and machinery repair.

NORTH CAROLINA ζζζ

For the state of North Carolina, the month of October has been mild with little precipitation. Beekeepers across the state are busy preparing their hives for winter. Colonies seem to be in a little better shape going into the winter months this year. But, Apiary Specialist continue to caution beekeepers on monitoring their hives for the mite and beetle situations. Due to warmer weather and an extended fall season, there has been a good supply of Aster and Goldenrod flow during the month of October. However, the beekeepers are being encouraged to continue feeding.

Exhibits at the State Fair held from October 17th through the 27th continue to spark interest in honey at the retail level.

OREGON ζζζ

Temperatures began a gradual cool down the first three weeks of October. Conditions remained dry the first of the month but by the second week, several areas in the Willamette Valley received 1-2" of rain and even a little snow fell in some high elevations. The precipitation was reduced to only occasional showers with daytime highs in the 40's and 50's and nighttime lows dropped into the 20's in Central and Northeast Oregon. The warm, dry conditions finished the month with daytime highs back in the 80's with very little measurable precipitation. Topsoil moisture was rated at 38% very short and 47% short and sub-soil moisture was rated at 53% very short and 38% short.

Beekeepers reported their bees came through a hot, dry summer in better condition than expected. The remainder of this year's honey was extracted with the Willamette Valley and Eastern Oregon doing a little better than last year with reports of spotty crops in Western Oregon. The blackberry crop was only fair this season but the bees made more honey than usual in the onion and carrot seed crops. The bees are in good shape going into winter as they were placed in holding yards. Some were covered to keep the hives warmer which encourages cleansing flights.

UTAH ζζζ

The hives are all winterized and there was no nectar or pollen gathered during the month. Bees appear to be in good condition. There have been some hives transported to California with more to follow in November.

WASHINGTON ζζζ

The first of October continued much the same as previous months with dry conditions and temperatures as much as 5-16 degrees above normal. The hottest area was Central and Eastern Washington where record daytime highs reached 85-90 degrees. Much needed rain began to fall, mostly on the coast and nighttime lows began to drop into the 30's in Central and Eastern Washington. Storms, that brought wind and rain began in Western Washington on the 16th, setting records in Bellingham which received 2.46" and Olympia recorded 1.66". The storms continued and on the 20th, Seattle and many areas north set all-time records for one day's precipitation when they received over 5", easily breaking the previous record of 3.41" set in 1959. Part of Northwest Washington were the hardest hit when the Skagit River crested 14' above flood stage, washing out several highways. Some fields were flooded but any damage won't be known until later crops are harvested. Precipitation was slightly and spotty in the eastern half of the state but high winds were recorded on the 28th & 29th.

Conditions were ideal for the bees the first of October. Temperatures were warm enough for them to take frequent cleansing and food gathering flights. Fall blooming trees and flowers still provided adequate amounts of nectar and pollen. Some bees that spent the summer in the hills in Western Washington for the fireweed flow were brought home during the month but the crop was not as good as previous years because of the hot, dry summer. Some bees that were setting along rivers, especially the Skagit River, had to be moved quickly as some rivers went over flood stage in just a short amount of time. Colonies were treated and honey left on for winter feed.

Migratory beekeepers were busy hauling their hives to California winter locations.

WISCONSIN ζζζ

Weather conditions throughout the month were very good for the honeybees. They had numerous cleansing flights so the bees were in good condition going into winter.

Beekeepers were adding supplemental feed as the fall flow was poor. Most beekeepers fall treatment program had been completed. Very little brood disease was reported. Rainfall for the period was spotty with many areas receiving ample to slight surplus.

Commercial demand continued to be good as beekeepers had low inventories of honey on hand. Retail demand was reported good.

U. S. EXPORTS OF HONEY BY COUNTRY OF DESTINATION, QUANTITY & VALUE

	AUGUST 2003		YEAR TO DATE 2003	
	QUANTITY Kilograms	VALUE Dollars	QUANTITY Kilograms	VALUE Dollars
COMB HONEY & HONEY PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE			DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE	
Mexico	6,290	8,250	16,674	21,223
Guatemala	589	2,573	589	2,573
Panama	---	---	1,140	5,147
Cayman Islands	---	---	1,076	4,334
Barbados	863	3,689	863	3,689
Northern Antilles	---	---	3,301	11,641
Aruba	---	---	1,138	5,990
United Kingdom	---	---	816	3,000
Netherlands	---	---	1,009	3,665
France	---	---	1,181	4,515
Germany	---	---	1,824	5,507
Israel	---	---	3,103	10,000
Kuwait	998	7,072	181,628	320,538
Saudi Arabia	15,391	20,188	218,063	335,063
Arab Emirates	24,043	31,537	139,213	182,607
Cambodia	---	---	1,143	6,185
Malaysia	---	---	7,385	9,686
Philippines	7,608	25,447	42,941	86,544
China	---	---	4,552	15,730
Korean Republic	4,424	8,800	118,092	157,900
Hong Kong	1,524	5,520	18,866	37,251
Taiwan	---	---	3,035	8,879
Japan	1,008	6,351	56,295	79,828
TOTAL	62,738	119,427	823,927	1,331,495

HONEY, NATURAL, NOT ELSEWHERE INDICATED OR SPECIFIED			DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE	
Canada	65,779	159,159	418,203	888,607
Mexico	---	---	1,160	6,682
Costa Rica	---	---	2,994	11,484
Panama	1,770	7,719	1,770	7,719
Bermuda	---	---	1,654	7,128
Bahamas	2,219	10,367	7,088	28,806
Jamaica	---	---	2,268	8,799
Barbados	---	---	6,246	23,109
Aruba	---	---	3,030	11,812
Chile	---	---	1,723	8,966
Netherlands	7,947	23,624	7,947	23,624
Germany	---	---	21,037	48,098
Armenia	14,944	25,867	14,944	25,867
Singapore	363	4,320	13,202	25,800
Indonesia	14,616	19,171	81,892	204,211
Philippines	1,255	4,661	1,255	4,661
China	7,331	18,779	32,510	83,277
Korean Republic	---	---	14,525	36,556
Japan	52,444	68,792	68,320	114,411
Australia	---	---	10,880	28,000
TOTAL	168,668	342,459	710,448	1,589,005

EXPORTS continued

HONEY, NATURAL, NOT ELSEWHERE INDICATED OR SPECIFIED ----- FOREIGN MERCHANDISE

Canada	---	---	24,813	64,607
Mexico	918	3,383	18,663	30,178
Costa Rica	---	---	18,600	31,620
Peru	20,100	34,170	20,100	34,170
Spain	---	---	186,002	360,840
Indonesia	---	---	37,200	37,200
China	1,152,549	2,289,098	1,172,745	2,310,100
TOTAL	1,173,567	2,326,651	1,478,123	2,868,715

U. S. IMPORTS OF HONEY BY COUNTRY, QUANTITY AND VALUE

COUNTRY	AUGUST 2003			YEAR TO DATE 2003		
	QUANTITY kilograms	CUSTOMS VALUE dollars	C.I.F. VALUE dollars	QUANTITY kilograms	CUSTOMS VALUE dollars	C.I.F. VALUE dollars
NATURAL HONEY, NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE - - - WHITE						
Canada	1,551,267	4,872,718	4,906,442	5,565,430	18,602,784	1,873,345
Mexico	19,698	56,848	56,923	566,367	1,704,924	1,740,413
Peru	---	---	---	3,480	5,220	5,506
Chile	---	---	---	1,986,913	5,195,624	5,357,554
Brazil	---	---	---	1,035,693	2,607,020	2,735,826
Uruguay	---	---	---	545,788	1,552,799	1,584,570
Argentina	39,208	90,883	94,483	3,466,901	8,725,465	9,080,253
United Kingdom	2,291	8,157	8,427	10,106	30,238	31,335
Germany	---	---	---	18,000	36,360	37,800
Australia	680	2,742	3,021	680	2,742	3,021
Czech Republic	---	---	---	31,070	82,236	86,636
Hungary	18,000	52,197	53,982	144,000	362,417	375,282
Russia	---	---	---	348	2,018	2,305
Ukraine	18,600	29,819	33,384	52,728	79,509	88,725
Spain	---	---	---	304	2,073	2,120
Romania	---	---	---	105,818	272,252	286,186
Turkey	---	---	---	55,627	117,291	122,632
India	253,401	614,825	656,575	1,419,362	3,309,010	3,508,982
Pakistan	---	---	---	153,301	219,169	239,466
Vietnam	95,700	203,590	225,800	415,580	905,473	961,225
China, Mainland	368,460	526,638	576,653	2,906,655	4,472,950	4,779,178
Australia	---	---	---	19,868	58,956	59,371
New Zealand	---	---	---	800	4,347	4,600
TOTAL	2,367,305	6,458,417	6,615,690	18,504,819	48,350,977	49,827,331

IMPORTS continued

NATURAL HONEY, NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE - - - EXTRA LIGHT AMBER

Canada	---	---	---	150,769	502,685	511,184
Mexico	37,324	104,501	107,406	399,120	1,129,373	1,158,698
Chile	---	---	---	502,614	1,377,015	1,425,273
Brazil	37,785	93,506	94,971	559,213	1,284,814	1,338,631
Uruguay	80,134	216,382	223,201	899,865	2,520,984	2,575,564
Argentina	---	---	---	583,866	1,400,908	1,462,938
Austria	---	---	---	460	3,507	3,574
Turkey	56,640	174,451	180,451	155,568	398,166	418,386
India	74,400	166,075	175,670	1,090,800	2,424,055	2,518,118
Pakistan	---	---	---	19,000	27,550	30,491
Vietnam	---	---	---	493,824	917,906	975,137
China	---	---	---	1,988,644	3,384,997	3,587,852
Australia	---	---	---	18,000	54,660	57,160
Egypt	59,400	117,018	124,039	237,808	441,697	467,353
TOTAL	286,283	754,915	781,699	7,098,551	15,868,317	16,530,359

NATURAL HONEY, NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE - - - LIGHT AMBER

Canada	27,123	78,558	78,747	143,317	457,260	461,284
Mexico	136,160	387,965	397,567	2,716,593	7,143,858	7,333,220
Dom. Republic	---	---	---	898	2,640	2,736
Peru	56,946	115,956	122,037	745,644	1,511,641	1,582,551
Chile	84,577	209,995	217,165	1,965,089	5,066,343	5,236,885
Brazil	284,494	646,471	678,861	2,745,473	6,484,797	6,794,294
Uruguay	98,621	249,443	261,126	3,587,644	9,768,847	10,052,744
Argentina	---	---	---	223,791	490,765	512,702
Denmark	---	---	---	12,096	51,710	55,560
France	---	---	---	1,040	4,420	4,634
Germany	---	---	---	133,956	439,227	512,310
Czech Republic	37,125	97,990	101,974	74,053	195,467	203,435
Hungary	18,000	52,197	53,982	18,000	52,197	53,982
Switzerland	---	---	---	571	4,215	4,216
Latvia	---	---	---	1,260	2,134	2,364
Ukraine	74,486	175,050	183,239	315,308	710,052	748,121
Moldova	---	---	---	108,490	230,719	239,504
Italy	---	---	---	2,213	5,233	5,745
Romania	56,700	151,353	157,329	414,847	994,895	1,040,878
Bulgaria	---	---	---	415,030	922,877	988,694
Turkey	152,089	400,787	421,947	1,265,745	3,031,919	3,195,454
India	---	---	---	1,030,014	2,180,272	2,322,999
Pakistan	38,000	57,950	60,107	38,636	59,994	62,300
Burma	---	---	---	56,250	69,075	75,017
Thailand	57,519	148,812	155,365	499,144	1,221,026	1,273,705
Vietnam	258,580	548,466	587,369	5,355,180	11,138,842	11,806,670
Malaysia	324,000	660,312	719,280	2,306,100	3,871,142	4,254,146
China	1,266,430	1,837,962	2,021,914	6,305,789	9,446,728	10,214,469
New Zealand	1,200	7,732	8,006	82,478	260,085	269,024
Egypt	---	---	---	4,220	2,950	3,296
Burkina	---	---	---	19,095	38,190	41,356
TOTAL	2,972,050	5,826,999	6,226,015	30,587,964	65,859,520	69,954,375

IMPORTS continued**NATURAL HONEY, NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE – NOT ELSEWHERE SPECIFIED OR INDICATED**

Canada	---	---	---	95,934	221,533	225,753
Mexico	27,540	55,819	56,019	1,768,089	4,737,309	4,766
Dom. Republic	28,350	41,000	42,750	211,168	208m127	225,312
Colombia	---	---	---	19,656	35,970	37,970
Peru	---	---	---	2,320	3,480	3,670
Chile	---	---	---	95,356	250,604	259,248
Brazil	78,452	186,473	198,823	529,912	1,249,652	1,306,292
Uruguay	---	---	---	117m783	310,077	318,038
Argentina	---	---	---	11,958	36,939	38,645
Netherlands	---	---	---	75,199	336,587	337,031
France	939	7,857	7,988	2,051	15,113	16,228
Austria	---	---	---	6,963	42,656	48,389
Switzerland	---	---	---	19,100	135,527	141,087
Russia	---	---	---	3,585	16,217	17,769
Ukraine	---	---	---	5,046	8,075	9,140
Spain	---	---	---	6,283	20,895	22,395
Portugal	---	---	---	4,860	6,846	7,248
Italy	---	---	---	5,119	14,489	15,906
Greece	---	---	---	758	5,339	5,610
Turkey	14,963	37,800	40,675	14,963	37,800	40,675
Israel	9,601	52,610	55,787	9,601	52,610	55,787
India	---	---	---	241,800	554,342	654,275
Vietnam	37,120	79,066	84,966	187,180	336,078	359,736
Hong Kong	---	---	---	5,400	23,364	23,971
Taiwan	---	---	---	29,275	40,515	43,905
Australia	---	---	---	9,969	41,623	44,204
TOTAL	206,959	505,885	534,982	3,498,682	8,830,560	9,119,455

SOURCE: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE,
FOREIGN TRADE DIVISION